



Family Preservation Services, Costs and Outcomes in Los Angeles

Presentations for the LA Board of Supervisors Deputies and the Children's Commission

FPS Evaluation Team Members: Todd Franke, Peter J. Pecora , Christina (Tina) A. Christie, Jacquelyn McCroskey, Jaymie Lorthridge, Erica Rosenthal, Anne Vo and Timothy Ho, and Erica Rosenthal, Ph.D.
(Revised: 8-04-13)

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Outline

- I. FPS Evaluation Purpose and Programs Examined
- II. Research Questions
- III. Persons Served by FPS
- IV. Findings: FPS Outcomes
- V. What Predicts FPS Success?
- VI. Recommendations

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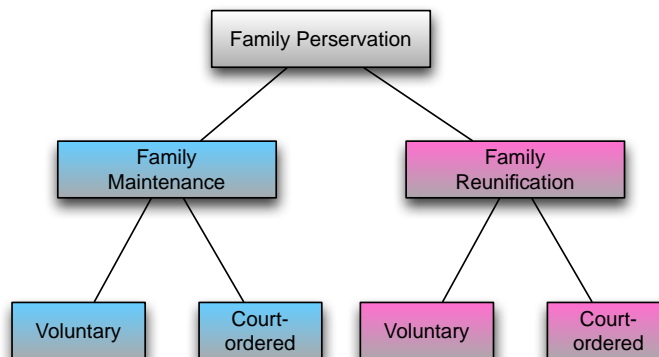
Purpose of the FPS Evaluation Study

Examines FPS data for the time period July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2010:

- Characteristics of the families served
- Agencies
- Services
- Costs
- Outcomes (including how FPS agencies are meeting the performance benchmarks set in their contracts)
- DCFS worker and Regional Office Administrator satisfaction with the contracted FPS

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Four Key FPS Programs Were Examined



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Research Questions

1. Who is being served by different kinds of DCFS Family Preservation Services?
2. What does it cost to provide these services?
3. What kinds of family outcomes are being achieved, across LA and by individual FPS provider agencies?
4. What do DCFS workers feel are the strengths, limitations and strategies for refinement for each of the current FPS contractors?
5. What refinements need to be made in Family Preservation Services and performance measurement?

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Data Collection Methods

1. Child Welfare Services/Child Management System (CWS/CMS) data
2. SDM risk and safety data
3. Family Preservation services and cost data from the billing data base
4. Special survey of DCFS staff (CSW's and SCSW's) about the contracted FPS that was made possible by the research team in the DCFS Bureau of Information Statistics

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Who Was Served?

	Family-Level (One Focus Child)	Child-Level (All Children)
Family Maintenance:	12,428	29,668
Voluntary (VFM)	6,563	15,628
Court-ordered (FM)	5,865	14,040
Family Reunification:	2,158	4,972
Voluntary (VFR)	245	537
Court-ordered (FR)	1,913	4,435
TOTAL	14,586	34,640

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Who Was Served in Terms of Risk of Child Maltreatment as Measured by the Structured Decision-Making Measure (SDM)?

Risk Level	Vol. Family Maintenance	Court-Ordered Family Maintenance	Vol. Family Reunification	Court-Ordered Family Reunification
High/Very High SDM Risk	77.8% (61.0% – 92.9%)	87.9% (74.5% – 100.0%)	90.2% (83.3% – 96.9%)	90.2% (58.3% – 100.0%)
Very High SDM Risk	15.4% (4.6% – 41.2%)	33.7% (22.1% – 50.0%)	21.7% (8.3% – 31.3%)	37.8% (8.3% – 68.0%)

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**Cost of FPS Services by Component for Fiscal Years
2005-06 through 2009-10**

FPS Program Component	Cost
DCFS FPS	\$122,353,848
Alternative Response Services (ARS)	\$19,254,960
Up Front Assessment (UFA)	\$2,663,041

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**Outcomes: % of Cases with CPS Referrals Overall Were
Moderate but Varied Substantially by Agency**

Outcome	Vol. Family Maintenance	Court-Ordered Family Maintenance	Court-Ordered Family Reunification
Re-referrals during FPS	22.2% (8.5% – 35%)	18.8% (11.1% – 36.4%)	19.6% (3.7% – 40%)
Substantiated re-referrals during FPS	8.1% (0% – 19.7%)	6.3% (1.6% – 15.9%)	5.8% (0% – 20%)
Re-referrals after FPS	25.9% (12.9% – 40.7%)	23.6% (8.6% – 32%)	25.6% (10% – 50%)
Substantiated re-referrals after FPS	8.3% (0% – 16.7%)	7.9% (2.5% – 15.7%)	7.9% (0% – 25%)

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Outcomes: Child Placements During and After FPS Were Fairly Low

Outcome	Vol. Family Maintenance	Court-Ordered Family Maintenance	Court-Ordered Family Reunification
Removals during FPS	10% (2.4% – 17.7%)	8.6% (0% – 17.1%)	
Removals after FPS	6.0% (0% – 13.0%)	6.9% (0% – 17.7%)	

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Outcomes: Family Reunification

Reunifications	Court-Ordered Family Reunification
During FPS	66.0% (34.3% – 87.1%)
After FPS	45.7% (0% – 71.1%)

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DCFS Social Worker Perceptions of FPS Contractors

Domain	Supervising Children's Social Workers (SCSW) n=189		Children's Social Workers (CSW) n=811	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Client Engagement and Service Delivery				
Interaction with families	3.16	0.43	3.27	0.63
Communication and quality assurance	3.08	0.48	3.15	0.65
Service provision	3.15	0.42	3.18	0.59
Overall satisfaction	3.02	0.46	3.14	0.65

Survey 1-Strongly Disagree – 4 Strongly Agree

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Recommendations

1. Increase the consistency of the FPS referral process across regional offices. Also assure that intake criteria are applied in the same way by contracted agencies.
2. Revisit DCFS reporting policies and train likely reporters to ensure clarity and consistency of processes and criteria guiding re-referrals for additional allegations of maltreatment *while Family Preservation cases remain open*.
3. Review, re-formulate and incentivize the intervention strategies used as part of FPS to increase the use of evidence-informed and evidence-based approaches.

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Recommendations (Continued)

4. **Require a core set of assessment measures and performance indicators across all FPS contract agencies.**
5. **Form a FPS Learning Network.**
6. **Incentivize FPS contractor program quality and fidelity.**
7. **Refine service cost measurement.**

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Recommendations (Continued)

8. **Pay contractors for up to 6 months of post-permanency contractor services** (as is done with RBS group care reform in four California Counties)
9. **Examine staffing capacity for the DCFS FPS contracting unit to monitor and coach the FPS contract agencies.**

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Progress is Being Made

- Learning Collaborative of FPS contractors and with DCFS central office and Regional managers
- Inventory of FPS contractor evidence-based and promising practices
- Refinement of FPS case screening and referral criteria/processes.
- Uniform family assessment measure (Family Assessment Form or FAF).

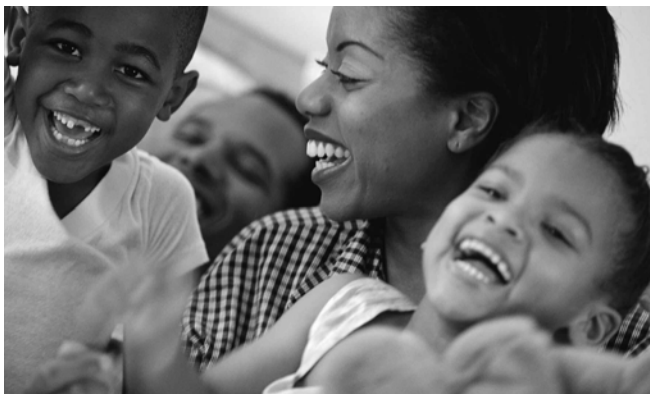
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Remaining Challenges

- Revise the menu of FPS interventions to better match current family needs
- Standardize services referral and use across offices.
- Families in every office should have access to services with the same quality (i.e., a threshold of quality that DCFS must require, track and monitor).
- Greater attention to successful PIDP strategies such as Neighborhood/Family Action Councils, and Church-based Parent Visitation Centers.

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Questions and Discussion



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FPS Contact Information

Report compiled by Compiled by Todd Franke, Ph.D., Peter J. Pecora, Ph.D., Christina (Tina) A. Christie, Ph.D., Jacquelyn McCroskey, D.S.W., Jaymie Lorthridge, M.S.W., Anne Vo, M.A., Timothy Ho, M.S., and Erica Rosenthal, Ph.D.

For more information about this evaluation report, please contact Dr. Todd Franke (tfranke@ucla.edu) or Dr. Peter J. Pecora (ppecora@casey.org)

- For more information about Family Preservation Services in Los Angeles, please contact: Marilynne Garrison, Division Chief, Community-Based Support Division(garrma@dcfs.lacounty.gov) or Blanca Vega County Contract Program Manager (vegabl@dcfs.lacounty.gov)

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FAMILY PRESERVATION -- CHILDREN'S SOCIAL WORKER SURVEY

A. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements regarding INTERACTION WITH FAMILIES relating to this first FP agency. If an item does not apply to you, please select "Don't Know."

1-A1. The family's input is considered and incorporated into the Multi-Disciplinary Case Planning Committee (MCPC) plan.	Strongly Disagree <input type="radio"/>	Disagree <input type="radio"/>	Agree <input type="radio"/>	Strongly Agree <input type="radio"/>	Don't Know <input type="radio"/>
1-A2. The FP case plan goals for the family are concrete and understandable.	Strongly Disagree <input type="radio"/>	Disagree <input type="radio"/>	Agree <input type="radio"/>	Strongly Agree <input type="radio"/>	Don't Know <input type="radio"/>
1-A3. The FP case plan goals for the family are frequently met with this FP agency.	Strongly Disagree <input type="radio"/>	Disagree <input type="radio"/>	Agree <input type="radio"/>	Strongly Agree <input type="radio"/>	Don't Know <input type="radio"/>
1-A4. The MCPC plan supports the family and builds upon their strengths.	Strongly Disagree <input type="radio"/>	Disagree <input type="radio"/>	Agree <input type="radio"/>	Strongly Agree <input type="radio"/>	Don't Know <input type="radio"/>
1-A5. This FP agency's staff establish and maintain excellent relationships with families.	Strongly Disagree <input type="radio"/>	Disagree <input type="radio"/>	Agree <input type="radio"/>	Strongly Agree <input type="radio"/>	Don't Know <input type="radio"/>